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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/696,584	10/30/2003	Hiroyuki Nagano	4686-002	9438

22429 7590 10/23/2006

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EXAMINER

YOO, JASSON H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3714

DATE MAILED: 10/23/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/696,584	Applicant(s) NAGANO, HIROYUKI	
	Examiner Jasson Yoo	Art Unit 3714	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>7/9/04 5/15/06</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by
Toshikatsu (JP 2001-297363)

Toshikatsu discloses the following:

1. A gaming machine enabling the insertion of bills, the gaming machine comprising (Fig.5):

a cabinet (machine 2 in Fig. 5); and

a door, provided on a front face of the cabinet;

wherein the door comprises (door 12 in Figs. 5 and 6, and paragraph 12):

a bill insertion slot (coin entrance slot 8 in Fig. 5, and paragraphs 12, 14) ;

a bill guide plate, extending outwards from a lower end of the bill insertion slot
and having an opening (coin entrance slot inherently has a guide plate around the
entrance of the slot);

a guide part, positioned in a direction substantially right under the opening of the
bill guide plate and guiding foreign matter from an exterior (change means 16 in Figs. 1
and 2 lead the coin to a safe 17, paragraph 13); and

a container (safe 17 in Figs. 1-3), disposed at the rear face of the door for collecting the foreign matter (the safe 17 is inside the door 5, paragraph 15).

2. The gaming machine according to claim 1, wherein an upper opening of the container is positioned in a substantially downward direction below the guide part and has a larger cross-sectional area than a cross section of the lower end part of the guide part (Fig. 3).

3. The gaming machine according to claim 1, wherein the container is detachably mounted to the rear face of the door (the safe 17 which collects a coin is held free [attachment and detachment] inside the door 5, paragraph 15).

4. The gaming machine according to claim 1, wherein the container is rectangular in horizontal cross-section, and one of long sides of the rectangular faces to the rear face of the door when container is mounted to the door (Fig. 3).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Toshikatsu.

Toshikatsu significantly discloses the claimed invention as discussed above. However, Toshikatsu does not teach the storage capacity of the container is one liter or less. Nevertheless, the size of the container is a design choice, and design changes that do not impact the function of system cannot be relied on to distinguish the claimed subject matter over prior art. The size of the money container for a gaming machine is a design choice, which proportionally depends on the size and game value of the gaming machine. Smaller gaming machines collecting fewer amounts of bills than larger machines would have smaller containers than bigger gaming machines. Therefore it would have been obvious to one in ordinary skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a container of one liter or less for small gaming machine that collect a small number of bills.

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Toshikatsu in view of Aosse (US 4,269,297)

Toshikatsu significantly discloses the claimed invention as discussed above. However, Toshikatsu does not teach the container is formed of a substantially transparent or semi-transparent material. However, in an analogous art to bill containers, Aosse teaches a container form substantially transparent or semi-transparent material (abstract, col. 1:35-49). The coin box may be entirely a see-thru coin box made from a tough hard transparent material such as plastic (col. 1:39-40). A

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transparent box allows the machine operator to see how much money has been collected before the removal of the box (col. 1:9-24). Therefore it would have been obvious to one in ordinary skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Toshikatsu gaming machine enabling the insertion of bills, and incorporate Aosse's transparent container, in order allow the machine operator to see how much money has been collected through the transparent container.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Slot Machines A Pictorial History of the First 100 years discloses a gaming machine comprising a bill guild plate (pages 77-79, 135).

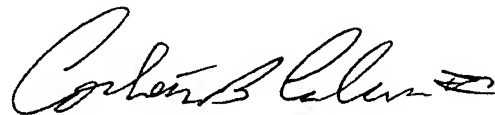
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jasson Yoo whose telephone number is (571)272-5563. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Olszewski Robert can be reached on (571)272-6788. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JHY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Corbett B. Coburn" followed by a stylized flourish.

**CORBETT B. COBURN
PRIMARY EXAMINER**